

From: (b) (3) (A)
To: (b) (3) (A)
Subject: Cyber Threat Advisory - TikTok Application
Date: Monday, December 16, 2019 11:47:47 AM

All,

I received a cyber threat advisory from the ASI Management Team concerning the application TikTok. The following is information and recommendations for home users of that application.

Background

TikTok is an iOS and Android social media video application (app) for creating and sharing short lip-sync, comedy, and talent videos and is widely used by young children and teenagers. A class action lawsuit in California alleges that Video-sharing platform TikTok and its Chinese parent company, ByteDance, are harvesting and storing personally identifiable information (PII) and other user data in data centers in China.

Summary

- Personal data of up to 110 million U.S. residents compromised
- Allegations that user locations, ages, private messages, phone numbers, contacts, genders, browsing histories, cell phone serial numbers, and IP addresses are stored overseas
- Allegations may confirm suspicions posed by Crowd Strike that ByteDance coordinates with the Chinese Communist Party (CSA-191179, CSA-191283)

Recommendations

- Be wary of the phone applications you download. Research the company history and ownership for any suspicious foreign connections or ownership
- Monitor your (and your family's) phones for unusual and unsolicited texts, instant messages, calls and emails. Delete them immediately and direct your children to do the same.
- Uninstall TikTok
- The easiest remediation to circumvent the further exposure of PII to unwanted actors is simply to uninstall the app
- Doing so will not prevent already potentially compromised information from propagating, but it could keep additional information from being collected.

Very Respectfully,

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